

WESTERN EXPLORATION.

LIEUTENANT WHEELER'S EXPEDITION
West of the One Hundredth Meridian
the Centers of the Apache Land—C
Apache, Arizona — Exploration
Opening Up of a New, Large and

Portion of the Country—The M
Lake.

[Correspondence of the Republica
CAMP NEAR CAMP APACHE, ARIZ
September 2, 19

The interval between my Zanis letter
month ago and date was occupied in a
marches and unceasing labor, the ch
the exploration, Lieut. Wheeler, h
along the side of Zanis, and takes

mand in *propria persona*, and all who had the honor of serving under his shadow know that he permits no grass to grow in his feet—nor theirs either, alas!

Passing over barren, waterless regions, he arrived on the Colorado Chiquito (the Colorado) about the 1st of August, and remained there several days, sending on

We had now entered the confines of the islands, and it behooved us to be on our guard. The animals were all tied to the pickets at night, the whole party sleeping as quietly as possible; and one man was constantly awake keeping a vigilant look out.

the alert by the frequent stampeding of animals through some mysterious agency, despite all pains we could not discover cause of the alarm of the otherwise quiescent animals, so that we lay pistol in one hand warding off mosquitoes with the other. Colorado Chiquito, tributary to the river of the West, is the most impor-

stream we have met since leaving the Grande, yet averages only about six feet breadth and two to three in depth, shallow and then in the sand and reappears a few miles farther on. Its water in this season is clear but somewhat brackish; the course is destitute of timber. The country bordering the stream consists of rolling hills without timber and but little grass; the

Here I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Mr. John Ryan, a most capable and obliging gentleman, living on Concho, another small but important station not far from here, which is just being settled by farmers and stock raisers. The

I may here state that all the settlements in Arizona I have met with are full of people for the course pursued by Gen. Crook to the Apaches. "He makes no noise in the newspapers," say they, "but for all that he is steadily at work on them. Kills a few

of hundreds of them now and then, down to them to the reservations, and keeps them there." They also speak highly of the and humanity displayed in this direction by the present commander of Camp Apache, Capt. Randall. It is quite refreshing to find to these encumbrances from the Arizona of European descent, for hitherto they have been hard to please on this subject. Undoubtedly, self-interest is capable of causing many changes of sentiment, and a man

be full of charity and philanthropy to the erring war-pather while removed from the field of his depredations; but let him come here, settle, and find his life, his children and his lands in jeopardy, and he at once becomes a blood-thirsty Indian hater. The Indian question is very near his soul. In ten years, I venture to predict, "Indian atrocities" will no more be heard of, though a member of the "fast-disappearing

race" may now and then kill a white man steal his horse, have we no murderers robbers in our midst? "Let him who is out sin cast the first stone." I am convinced that more cruel murders are perpetrated yearly in any one large city of the United States than by all the Indians the land over.

At our crossing of the Colorado the altitude of the country above sea level was some five thousand five hundred feet; not much higher in this latitude for successful agriculture.

You pass numerous small springs coming from volcanic rock, the lands surround them covered with a short, dry grass of gramma variety, and now and then streams with a border of one to three dried feet of rich meadow land.

settlements for agricultural, cattle and growing purposes; yet at the present there is no settlement between the Chiquito and Camp Apache. You graduate until about fifty miles from the rado Chiquito you exchange the barren lands for the green, pine-covered, buful scenery of the White mountains of zona. Between the Colorado and the mountains many varieties of stone and are found—most, granite and crystalline

At a place named Mineral springs, Gilbert, geologist of the party, and I, while running a short base line, observed an insect phenomenon that may be of some interest. Encompassing the road was a gular trail, aggregating some sixty feet

an inch broad and a fourth of an inch wide into the ground by a procession of innumerable black ants, one stream going in one direction, another in the opposite direction continually. At each of the triangular points were a number of small holes, into which the ants descended, and from which again presently continued the march to the next one, and so on. At each of the points, small, frail, bright red bug was stationed, upon which each ant ran without ceremony, and each without noticing them.

one ant deviated a hair's breadth from the well-worn little trail. They carried den. Though much disposed to do so w time to stay long enough to faithfol meaning of the procession. Could it religious ceremony—a rain prayer?

This is the "rainy season" in New and Arizona. The almost invariable r A beautiful sunrise; sky almost, if not clear—perhaps a few cirro-stratus c

the horizon. About 9 a. m. cumulo- clouds make their appearance, gradually increasing in volume, and at 11 a. m. the firmament is covered with clouds, and lying down, now and then, a few rain. The cloudiness continues during the afternoon. Every second or third evening there is a shower, amounting to, perhaps, one to an inch of rain. Towards 9 p. m. the clouds disappear, leaving naught but a single gleam of brighter sky above the horizon.

host has never been oppressive, while it is always dry, even when it rains, there is a difference between dry and wet bulb thermometers of never less than 10 degrees reinit. Except in the mountains, there is no dew—no fog. We have had some rain nearly every day since June 18, yet at this time an amount not exceeding inches has fallen.

These expeditions have an *ex officio*

ness, enabling members to wear out old clothes and give the slip to some of all their bad habits. Thus one compares the passage of the Rio Grande by tying himself to eschew forever the tobacco, knowing that on a tour of the where one is deprived of every comfort and indulgence except that weed, it will be doubly hard to free from the embrace of the enchantress.

For some thirty miles before

Camp Apache the road took us through pine forests, every foot of the ground, a tree did not grow, covered by green bunch grass and wild flowers, passing and then through some stony openings clumps of willow and aspen, the fresh air of the latter contrasting charmingly with the dark green of the pine, while a meadow growth of an acre or two of rich grass looked like a gorgeous green

where, every half mile a brook of pure water, inhabited by trout. Much beautiful and rich country belongs to the Apache reservation, and proves

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